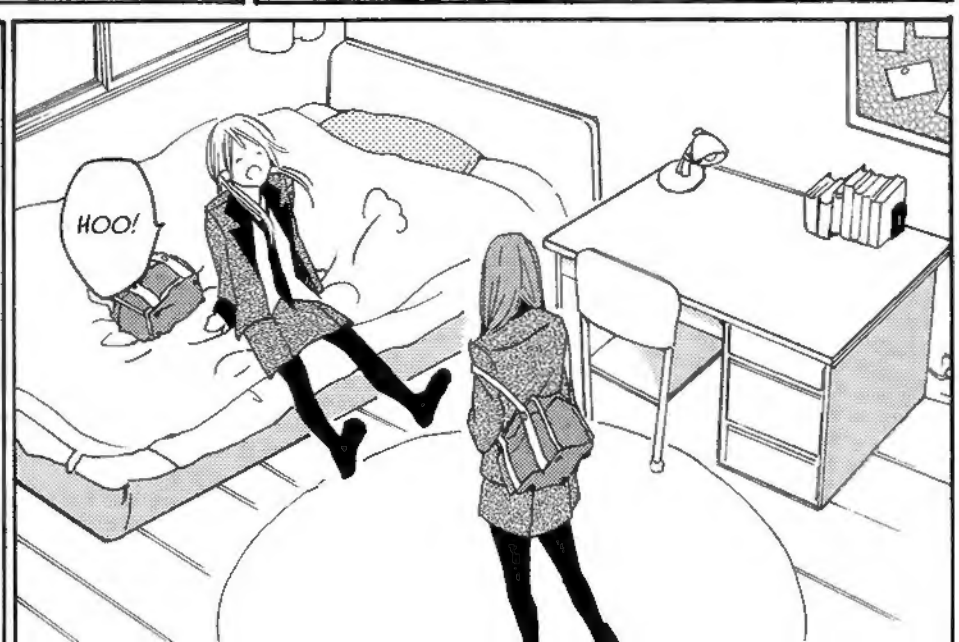
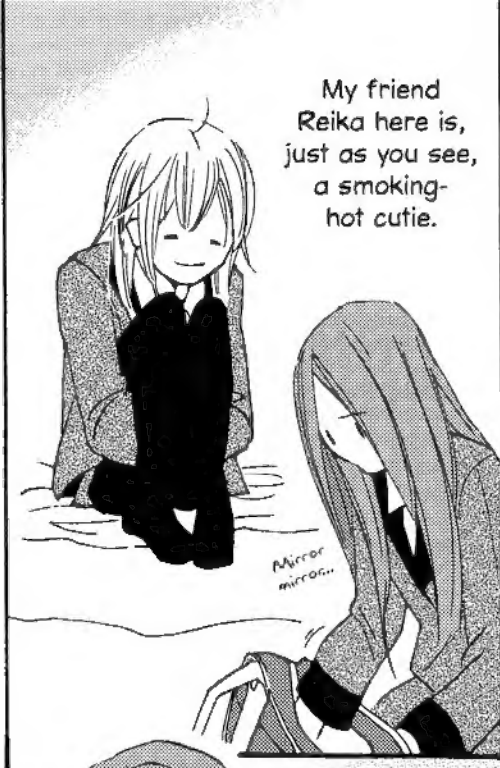
GRADUATION PROHIBITED

OHSAWA YAYOI

The classroom froze.

Nothing could beat the atmosphere in there.

FWUMP
DID YOU SEE HIS FACE!?
OLD SANO STANDING THERE WITH HIS MOUTH HANGING OPEN!
AMAZ-ING!
Ah ha ha ha!
OH...?
SHOULD'VE GOTTEN IT ON FILM!
RUI! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO YOUR HAIR!?
Even you, Reika-chan!
GRADUATION PHOTOS ARE COMING UP!
AHHH...
CAN YOU REALLY GO TO SCHOOL LIKE THAT?
PARDON THE INTRUSION!
NO PROBLEM, NO PROBLEM!
HOO!
WE REALLY DID IT.

beam♡
HEY, MY HEART WAS BEATING SO FAST!
My friend Reika here is, just as you see, a smoking-hot cutie.
Mirror mirror...
In senior year, we wound up in the same class for the first time.
There was a mysterious air about her that drew me in. So I befriended her.
That brown hair... looks so good on her.
She just has some-thing that makes you want to be near her.

BUT WAS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT TO DYE IT?
I KINDA DRAGGED YOU INTO THIS ON MY OWN WHIM.
I MEAN, YOU EVEN GOT YELLED AT BECAUSE OF ME.
you know?
beam
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IT'S NO PROBLEM! I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY GIVING MYSELF BROWN HAIR! NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, RUI!
IT'S TOTALLY OKAY!
Oh.. really?
Nothing to do with me, huh
Not a care in the world..
PEACE
WE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE GOING WITH BLONDE FOR YOU.
stroke
IT LOOKS AMAZING.
Reika... probably doesn't really get it.

She doesn't understand the real reason I dyed my hair.
WELP, BYE THEN! SEE YOU TOMORROW!
Be care-ful!
YEP, SEE YOU! BYE-BYE!
It's not that I wanted to stand out.
Or that I particularly wanted to be a blonde.
CLICK
VOOOOOO
I just wanted there to be...
one thing me and Reika, and nobody else in the school,
shared together, special.
That's what was going through my head.

I'm sure she...
I'M GOING TO GO BUY SOME JUICE.
OKAY!
hasn't the slightest idea about any of this.

Are we just going to graduate...
without me getting any of it across?

Maybe that's for the best.
...I try to tell myself, but...
Brrr... chilly

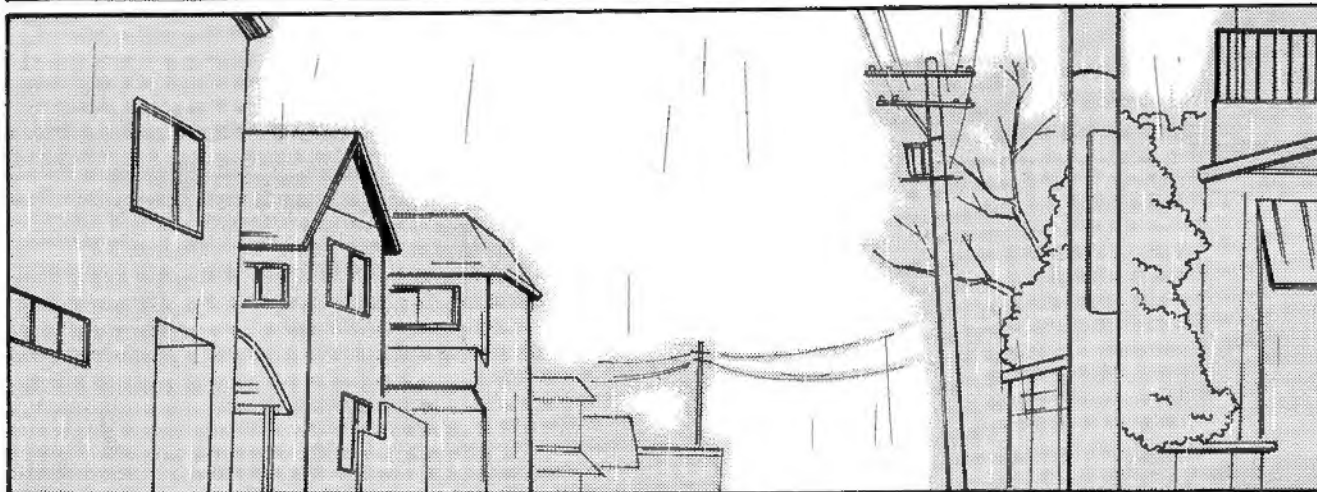
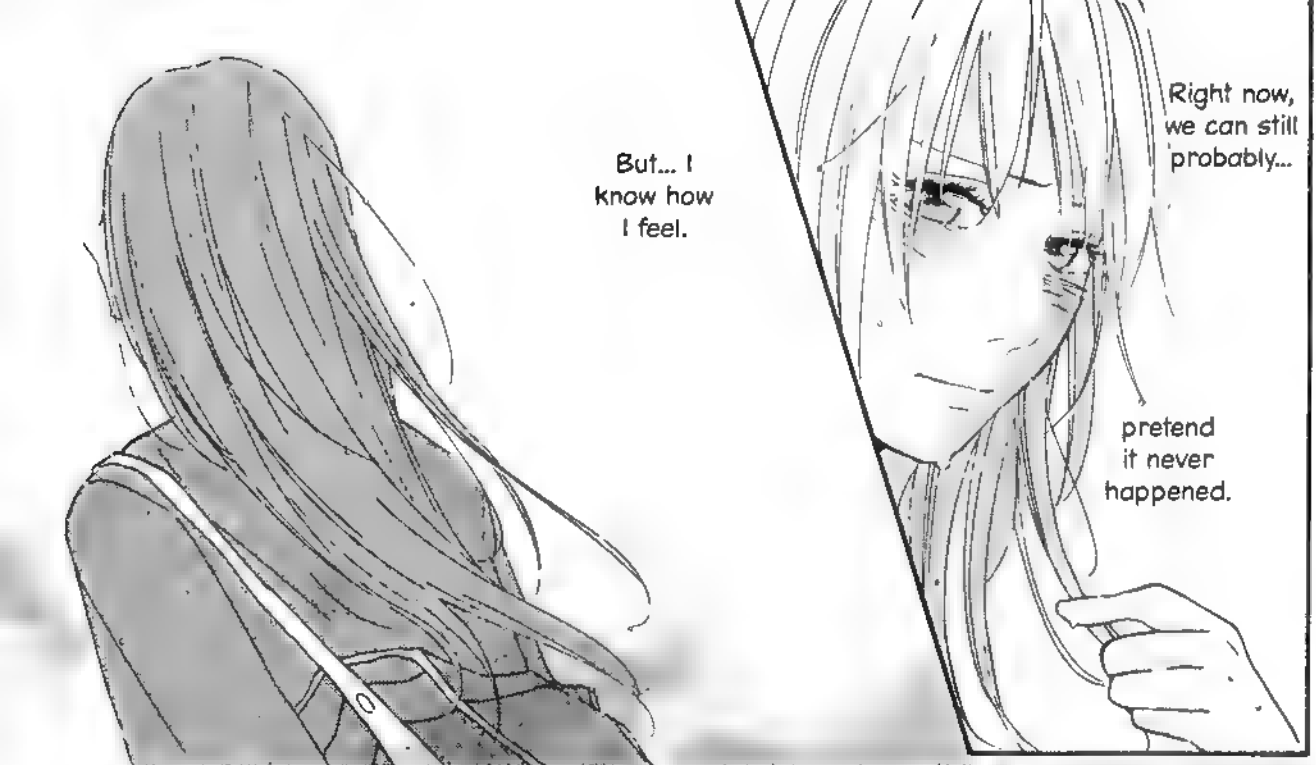
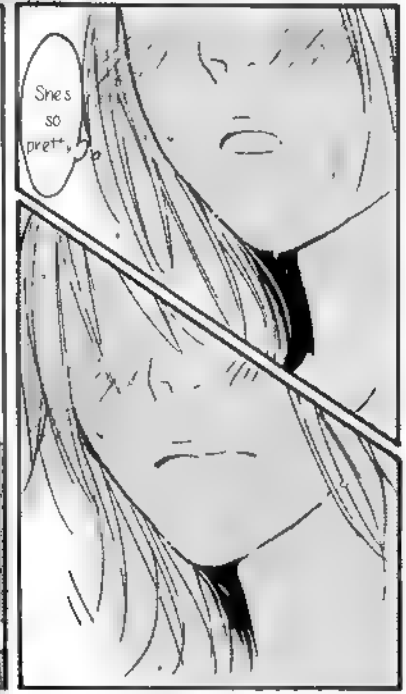
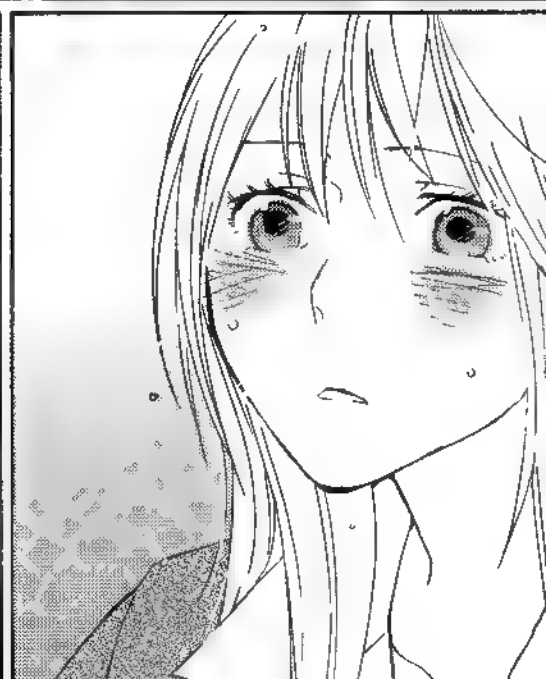
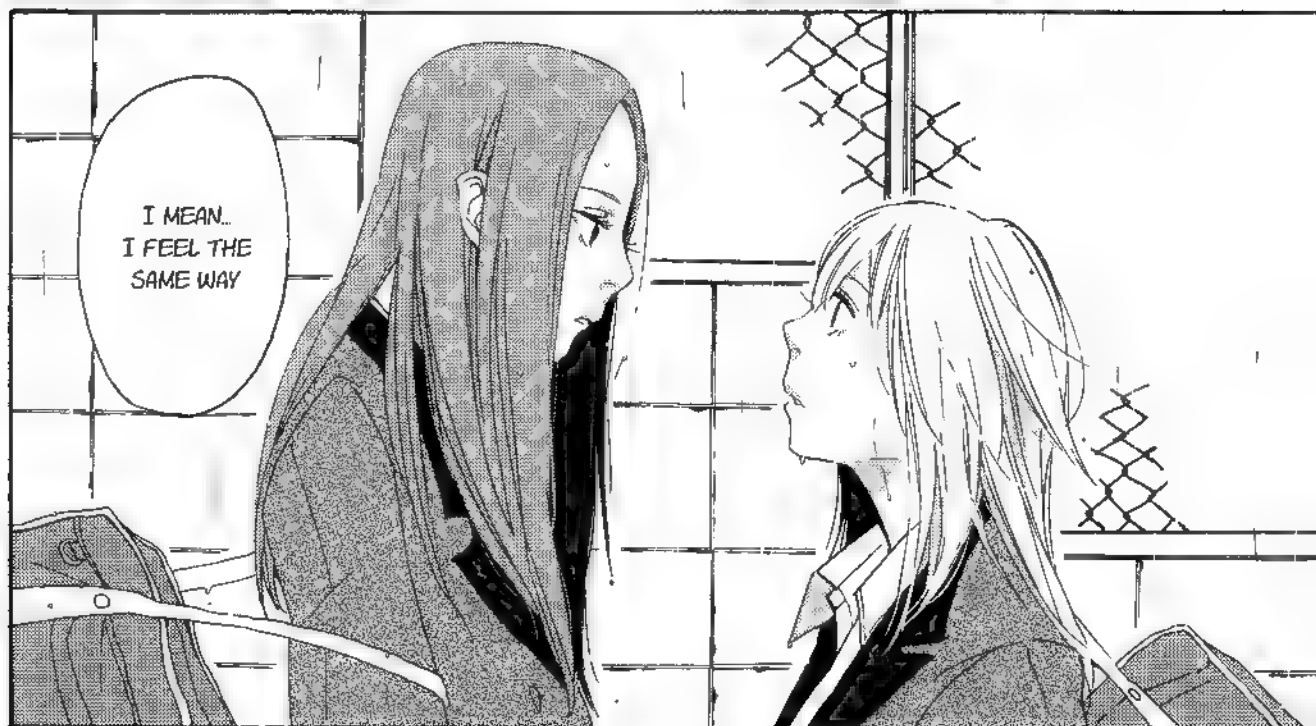
It doesn't work.
drip
drip
Drip?

WHAT!? NO WAY!
TURN
drip
drip

BURST
BAD NEWS, REIKA! IT STARTED RAINING!
YOU DON'T HAVE ONE OF THOSE LITTLE UM-BRELLAS ON YOU OR...

ANY...

Whoa... what is this? Adorable!!
vssshhhh
RĒIKA... YOU ASLEEP?
whisper
zzz
Uegh, she really is!
Everything about her is so carefree... and elusive somehow.
If things stay like this,
she'll never notice how I feel.
She doesn't have a thought in her head,
except for fun things.
VSSSHHHH
The hair I dyed...
Am I okay with things staying like this?
the color I like the most.
I don't think...
.....

VSSSSSSSH
I'm okay with it at all...
So soft_
Leap
!!!
HOO... SORRY, I FELL ASLEEP.
yawnnn

LET'S GO HOME.
GETTING WET WALKING HOME IN THE RAIN..
MM? YEAH.
Why isn't she saying anything? She had to have noticed, right?
But wait... maybe she didn't?
Or maybe this is her way of telling me to forget about it?

Right now, we can still probably...
pretend it never happened.
But... I know how I feel.
Shes so prett
HEY.
grip
SO WHAT'D YOU THINK?
beam
HUH?
ABOUT WHAT?
Y'KNOW, ABOUT THE... KISS BACK THERE.
AH...
JUST... WONDERING WHAT YOUR OPINION WAS.
EH? MY OPINION?

I MEAN.. WE BOTH KNOW WHAT IT MEANS WHEN SOMEBODY KISSES YOU, RIGHT?
Ba-dum
Ba-dum
YOU DON'T SPEAK YOUR MIND ALL THAT MUCH, REIKA, SO..
IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT, I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY SO
?
WHY?
I MEAN.. I FEEL THE SAME WAY
She feels the same way...?
YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY.. MEAN-ING WHAT EXACTLY?
WELL, LIKE.. REQUITED LOVE, RIGHT?
To put it one way

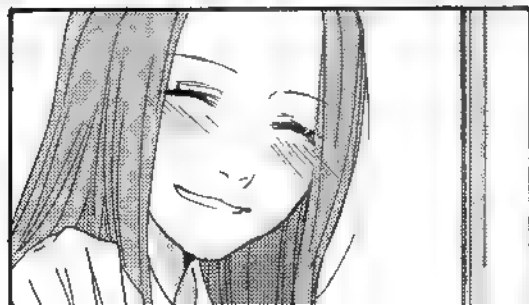
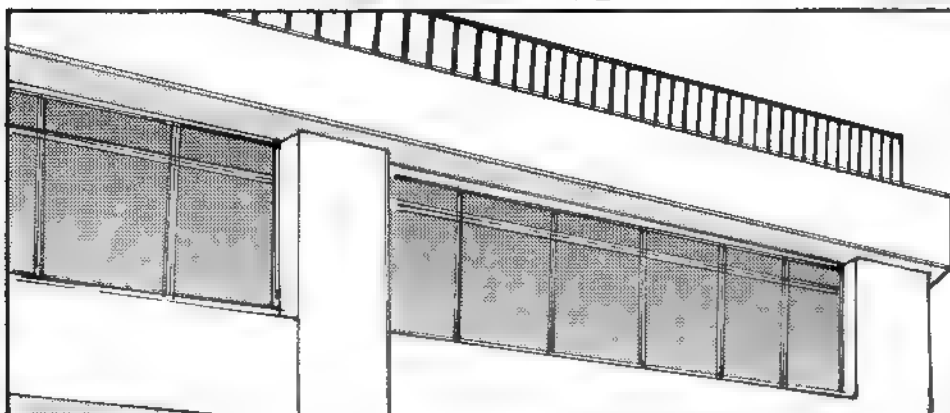
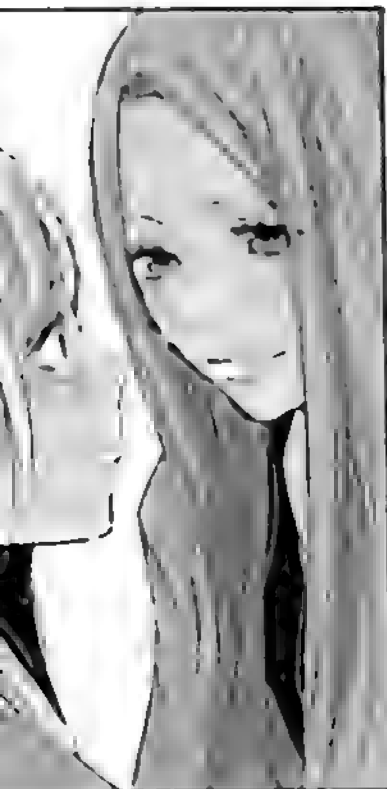
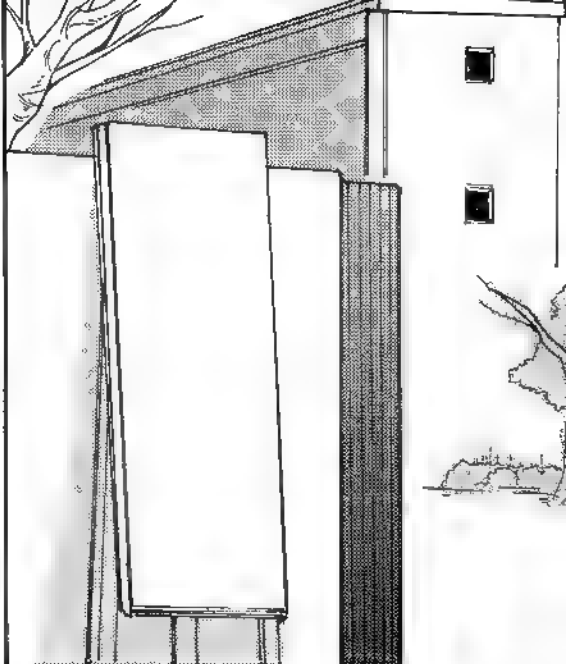
YOU MEAN IT?
I DON'T... KNOW WHAT
YEP
I THINK I DO

EH? NO WAY.. FOR REAL? IF YOU'RE LYING TO ME, I'M GONNA GET SO MAD.
Really?
Really?
Ah ha ha
WHY ARE YOU DOUBTING ME SO MUCH?
BUT.. BUT I MEAN..
Reika... really thought of me that way...
It's like a dream...
REIKA..
REIKA, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
SNUGGLE
...
!
bite.

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NO... UM... I JUST WANTED TO TRY IT...
Did it without thinking...
Ah ha ha!
RUI, YOU PERV!
Ahh...
who knew happiness like this could exist?
I could just...
I'M HOME
drip drip
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!? GET THOSE SOPPING WET CLOTHES OFF YOURSELF IMMEDIATELY!!!
Hahhhh
die right now, and it'd be okay by me.

Does this mean, starting today...
Reika and I are lovers?
splash
WHAT A DAY! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!!
BEST EVER!!
...
Lovers... lovers, huh
Doesn't have a bad ring to it
Heh heh heh
Wait.
Hold on.
"I FEEL THE SAME WAY!"
...That's what she said, but... the same as what exactly?
She didn't think I meant... "You're a friend I love so much, I want to kiss you"... right?
THUMBS UP
She didn't mean the same as *that*, did she!?

Eh? No way, right?
That's a little far-fetched...
But no... It's true Reika never said it herself
She never said, "I like you romantically."
Sighhh...
AWWW MAN... AND I GATHERED UP ALL THAT COURAGE...
But...
I kissed her.
It might be that the only thing between us is friendship.
But there might be romantic feelings, too.
I can't tell for sure right now.
But what I do know for sure is, we have a special love for each other that we don't share with anyone else.

GOOD MORNING.
That's right... we...
love one another.
GOOD MORNING!
We're special to each other.
What a waste it would be...
not to enjoy the time we have left till graduation!
I don't know whether she sensed this feeling of mine or not, but...

In the days we spent together until graduation...
there certainly seemed to be
a different, special sort of time passing

SAY CHEESE!
click
I'LL SEND IT TO YOU LATER
THANKS
OOH, THERE YOU ARE!
BLONDIE AND BROWNIE!
Hey!
Hey
And just like that,
Oh, hey
YOU WERE PISSING THE TEACHERS OFF TO THE VERY END,
with those heads of yours.
Ah, stuff it.
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!
WE MAN-AGED TO GRADUATE, SO IT WORKED OUT.
the two of us graduated.
It looks good on us, right?
Well, I won't deny that.

HEY, HEY, REIKA-CHAN! LET'S TAKE A PICTURE.

HMM? SURE.

Those two, off on their own.

Grr...

I thought there might be some progress in our relationship by now.

Too close!
TWITCH
Smile, Rui!
But I still...

think that there's something special between us.

This doesn't feel like our sorrowful parting.

After all, this isn't the end for us.
Rui, your face is really scary.
Uegh.
Even if we won't be able to see each other every day like we used to.
SAY, REIKA-CHAN.

I may not know exactly what the future holds; but...
CAN WE EXCHANGE NECKTIES?

Together, she and I...
CLENCH
SURE!
Yey!

WHAT!!?
And... right in front of me.
To her, not me!?
Why are you giving away...
such an important token?
Why...

We'll see you there!

THANKS FOR WAITING.

WE'RE ALL GOING TO GO TAKE COM-MEMORATIVE PHOTOS AT THE MALL.

YOU'LL COME TOO, RIGHT?

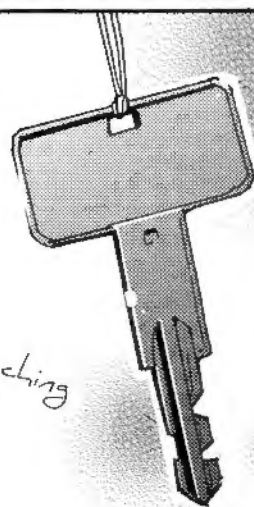
NAH, COUNT ME OUT

CAN I SEE YOU TONIGHT?
I HAVE... A LOT OF THINGS I WANT TO TALK ABOUT.
RUI.
WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
YEAH, A BIT.

I'M SORRY IT GOT SO LATE. WE WENT TO KARAOKE AFTER THAT_
YEAH
I'D BETTER BE GETTING HOME SOON TOO
Mmm?
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU OUT
THEN
Hmph
NO
I WANTED TO HURRY UP AND SEE YOU
She'll look at me like that, so lovingly.
Yet the next moment, treat me so coldly
HEY LISTEN
This is
me with no idea what's
JUST WHAT ARE YOU AND I?

?
WHAT AM I TO YOU, REIKA?
...?
MM? WELL.. HMM..
Mnn..
THAT'S HOW YOU ALWAYS ARE.
YOU'RE NEVER THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING,
ARE YOU, REIKA?

THAT'S_ HOW COULD YOU DO. SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF ME!
SOME-THING LIKE WHAT?
THIS!
Her necktie
I QUIT I'M DONE. I DON'T GET YOU, REIKA.
I'M THE ONLY ONE AGONIZING OVER THIS STUFF. I FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT.
WHAT'S WRONG, RUI?
PLEASE DON'T CRY
HEY_ REIKA
YES?
YOU SAID YOU FELT THE SAME WAY I DID DIDN'T YOU?

I WANT YOU, REIKA.
EVERYTHING OF YOURS, I WANT TO BE MINE.
YOU'RE SPECIAL TO ME.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SAY I LOVE YOU.
DO YOU GET ME? DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL?
CAN YOU ACCEPT THAT AND BE WITH ME?
YES, I DO UNDERSTAND.
AND I FEEL THE SAME WAY
LIAR!
I MEAN IT. HERE, RUI, LOOK THIS WAY.

TAKE IT.
ching
IT'S... A KEY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE KEY TO MY PLACE ♥
STARTING THIS SPRING, I'M LIVING ON MY OWN.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO GIVING YOU THAT FOR SO LONG.
IT'S A KEY YOU AND I HAVE, AND NOBODY ELSE, RUI.

BECAUSE I ALWAYS WANT YOU TO BE THE CLOSEST PERSON TO ME IN THE WORLD.
HA...
HUH?
WHAT... THE HELL...
YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT LIVING ON YOUR OWN...
TELL ME THAT STUFF SOONER.
clench
WELL, I WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU.
DID IT WORK? ARE YOU HAPPY?
YEAH. PRETTY HAPPY.

OH, BUT YOU WANTED MY NECKTIE, RUI?
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE GIVEN YOU THAT INSTEAD.
NO, FORGET ABOUT THAT.
SNIFF
THIS IS BETTER.
THIS IS WHAT I WANT.
Thank you.
I love you.
fin.

Graduation Prohibited
Ohsawa Yayoi
Translator:
Gulf Standard
Editor:
Nyandere
QC:
Green Kiena
Yuri Project